



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

For immediate release

News release No. 8

Oct. 22, 2003 4:00 p.m.

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Gov. Gary Locke amends emergency proclamation to include four additional counties

OLYMPIA -- Gov. Gary Locke today revised the proclamation of emergency issued Oct. 17 to include Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason and Snohomish counties. Widespread flooding in Clallam, Skagit and Whatcom counties prompted the initial declaration. Locke amended the proclamation today at 2:50 p.m. He plans to tour affected areas in Skagit County on Thursday, Oct. 23.

The amended proclamation directs state government to support emergency response activities in the four newly affected communities, allowing state agencies to make use of their resources in support of local actions. State actions are coordinated through the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray, which was reactivated around 10:30 a.m. on Monday.

“Continued heavy rain has increased the number of counties impacted by flooding. Our first priority is to protect the health, safety and property of Washington citizens during this critical time. The state has mobilized a variety of resources in support of ongoing response and recovery efforts at the county and city levels,” said Locke.

If residents have sustained damages in the flooding, report them to the local emergency management agency.

Emergency management has compiled a list of steps affected residents should take as flood waters begin to recede:

- Stay away from flood waters.
- Stay away from moving water--six inches can easily sweep you off your feet.
- Be aware of where waters have receded and may have weakened road surfaces.
- Stay away from and report downed power lines.
- Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities ask for volunteers.
- Continue listening to the radio for information about where to get assistance.

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- Consider health and safety needs. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Call your insurance agent.
- Keep records of all clean-up and repair costs.
- Take photos of or videotape your belongings and your home.
- Don't throw away damaged goods until an official inventory has been taken.

To view or download fact sheets on topics such as *During the Flood*, *After the Flood*, *Cleanup After the Flood*, *Mold* and *Saving Photographs After the Flood*, visit the Emergency Management Web site located at <http://www.emd.wa.gov> and click on the top headline, "Find Flood Preparedness Info here."

The State Enhanced 911 Office in cooperation with local telephone carriers reminds all citizens in the affected area:

- To stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need to make a telephone call. Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and its use may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.
- If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP. Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.

Operating as part of the Washington Military Department, the Emergency Management Division staffs the State EOC 24 hours a day year round.

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